

**CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2015
MEETING MINUTES**

Members present:

Jerry Foxhoven, Gail Barber, Jean McAleer, Wendy Rickman, Jake Carmi, Nancy Magnall, Rep. Marti Anderson, George Belitsos, Anne Gruenwald, Jim Hennessey.

Members Absent:

Chris Secrist, Edwin Daye, Julie Mann Phillips, Sen. Amy Sinclair, Sen. Amanda Ragan, Rep. Rob Taylor, Charles Palmer, Sen. Dennis Guth.

Visitors:

Nancy Augustine (phone)-Family Advocate
Kai McGee(Penny)-AFFIRM/Iowa Kids Net
Nancy Clark Stillians-Research and Advocacy
Elaine Willey
Don Burgmaier-Iowa Family rights
John Harvey- Vocal of Iowa
Janine Felder Camp (phone)-Iowa Family Preservation project.

Meeting Called to order 1:05 pm

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes correction: John Harvey is with Vocal of Iowa not Iowa Family rights and George also asked to a correction in the budget presentation by Wendy to read that there was some concern by CWAC members that DHS funds are being used to fill the gap to help cover Medicaid.

With the corrections made, the minutes stand approved as amended.

Report on AFFIRM:

Kai McGee gave a presentation on AFFIRM. AFFIRM coalition entities are Iowa Kids Net, Iowa Safe Schools, YSS, AMP, Lavender Umbrella, Iowa Homeless Youth Centers, Healthy Homes Family Services, Iowa Foster and adoptive Families Association & EQUI Iowa. They also have strong association with One Iowa. AFFIRM is concerned with the care of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) children in Iowa. Kai shared that approximately 800 to 1200 LGBTQ children are served by the Iowa Child Welfare System every year and approximately 500 to 700 LGBTQ children are served by the Iowa Juvenile Justice system every year. Kia said if

you have a question how she came up with the numbers, if you contact her she will share with you.

Kai gave an overview of how the LGBTQ children in Iowa are being over looked, and some of the changes she and others would like to see changed in our system. (see hand out)

Kai McGee's contact information is:

IKN

pmcgee@fouroaks.org

515-326-2120

AMP Update:

Jake shared that YIPPI has received a grant thru the Jim Casey foundation, and that YIPPI and AMP are joining together on the prudent parenting. They would like to give foster parents the power to give permission for the kids to do kid's stuff, such as permission to go to a sleep overs, and go to various school activities. Currently, these required permissions to be signed by a DHS worker. AMP has also worked with the art center and the science center throughout the year to do a whole slew of activities, including their box competition for Reggie's sleep out.

Other projects and outings AMP was involved with were, they worked with Iowa State University to do a Hunger of the Heartland, and they held a murder mystery Halloween dinner. With all the fun they have had, they also have worked hard and have their legislative agenda ready for the upcoming year. The big item they are working on, is to prohibit "conversion therapy" by licensed professionals. This item went before the legislature last year, and they will continue again this session.

AMP also joined ranks with National Youth in Action, a national network that currently has groups in approximately 18 states. AMP went to Washington DC in October for a conference and meet with one of Senator Grassley's aids to speak with him about legislation. Amp also participated in the Bully walk on October 3, 2015. AMP will also be opening another AMP chapter making 17 chapters in Iowa. AMP on the hill will be held Monday January 25th. Jake handed out a fact sheet on Human Trafficking (see hand out).

Jake attended the third annual AMP camp. This is a week--long, camp where youth are taught how to speak in public and to rally the kids to stand up for their beliefs.

Children's Justice Summit:

Gail Barber gave a summary of the Children's Justice Summit, which was held December 1st and 2nd and was co-sponsored by Children's Justice and Public Safety. They were approximately 370 people that attended the two day meeting. The summit focused on Human Trafficking, and all the feedback was positive from sides, law enforcement and child welfare.

George gave out a handout from the Department of public safety, on Human Trafficking. (see attachments)

Update on DHS Budget:

Wendy gave an update on the Budget. The department has given their budget presentation to the Governor. The DHS proposal is on line, and DHS is waiting for the Governor's budget. The governor will present his budget to the legislature during the second week of session, after which it will be posted on line.

The estimating conference was just held, and the report from them was a slightly lower.

Children's Mental Health & Wellbeing Taskforce:

The report from the taskforce is still in draft form, and the final meeting will be held by phone on December 14, 2015, Jerry will share the report at our next meeting.

Scheduling Meetings for Work on S.F. 505 Report:

Jerry, George, Gail and Jake will meet to create the report needed for S.F. 505. This report is to complete a study the procedure within the Department of Human Services for receiving complaints from families involved in guardianship, placement, and custody proceedings and make and make recommendations.

Misc.:

There was some concern as to how children will be covered by Medicaid. Kids will be assigned to start with, and then they will be able to pick the coverage that best fits their circumstances.

Public Comments:

Public comments emphasized the following issues/opportunities: DHS should not be splitting up families, and they need help getting answers to their questions. In addition, John Harvey spoke about a document used in the last meeting with the Director. Wendy stated she would forward the document referenced along with the meeting

minutes. Lastly, visitors spoke about the need for DHS to change some policies/practices to better engage families in the child welfare process.

Future Meeting Date:

March 4, 1:00 to 3:00 in the library at the Drake Legal Clinic.

Adjourn: 3:00p.m.